

Arden Election of the 2016 Board of Assessors

Don't forget to vote: Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Arden on Oct 13.

Ballots must be returned by 7:30pm, **Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015.**

Ballots will be counted at the Buzz Ware Village Center. The public is invited to attend.

For questions about the election contact the Registration Committee at: registration@arden.delaware.gov

Candidates state their positions

Below are statements from candidates running for 7 seats on the Arden Board of Assessors.

MARK WOOD did not submit a statement.

TOM WHEELER My wife woke up in a dream and said, "We have to move to Arden." Over the past 20 years we have been involved in many Arden activities. I've been the treasurer of the Arden Craft Shop Museum, and the Swim Gild, and temporarily for the Arden Club, as well as helping rebuild the Moonlight Theater, served on the BWVC and the Civic committees, as well as Gildmaster of the Shakespeare Gild and co-Gildmaster of the Library Gild. I have been on the Board of the AB&L for 15 years. Arden is a great place to live. I will vote Full Rental Value as required by the approved budget vote, unless strong reason and considerable village sentiment are demonstrated for change. Thank you for your interest and support.

LARRY WALKER My principal concern is that the Village of Arden needs to hold a substantial Prudent Reserve. In my opinion, the amount in the Prudent Reserve in recent years has been too low for prudent fiscal emergency or unanticipated needs, and the targeted amount should be increased, even if it means higher Land Rents for a few years.

Over the years previous Assessors Boards have chosen to lower the amount in the Prudent Reserve, instead of increasing Land Rents. I have served on previous Assessors Boards, and I am a former Town Budget Committee Chairman.

KATE THREEFOOT I've lived in Arden for over 30 years and during that time I have served on the Budget Committee (twice), Audit Committee, and most recently on the Pendulum Fund Advisory Board. I also served on the Arden Swim Gild Board for several years. In general, I think of myself as a pragmatic idealist and would bring this thought process with me to the Board of Assessors. I think the way that we assess the land rent in Arden needs to consider the ideal of the full rental value of the land, the current community standard of living, and

what it takes to sustain a diverse community. In order to find the right balance, I would start with an open mind, listen carefully to various points of view, and consider the options at hand carefully.

SALLY SHARP did not submit a statement.

SUSAN ROTHROCK I have been a leaseholder in the Village of Arden for 28 years. I was Chair of the Civic Committee and served for 10 years. As Chair of the Civic Committee, I initiated the formation of the Forest Committee, which was once under the responsibilities of Civic. I am also on the Arden Investment Advisory Board. As issues are discussed, I will listen to all opinions, join in the discussion when I feel I can contribute, and weigh all factors when making decisions. Thank you.

WARREN ROSENKRANZ I have served on the Assessors for many years and in my tenure the Board has only raised the assessment to meet the School Tax increases that we have all endured. I have been adamant about keeping the Assessment rates fair for ALL leaseholders. I would appreciate a vote from you to help me continue serving our community without bias.

CHARLES ROBINSON Having frequently attended the Assessors' meetings over the years and having once served as an Assessor, I am aware of the complicated and important issues facing the Board of Assessors. We must continue to study the principles and practices of land rent, to consider any fair modifications to the current system (and reject any unfair modifications), and to keep the community informed of the process by which land rent is assessed. The Assessors in the last few years have done a very responsible job.

continued on other side

Arden Board of Assessors • Candidate Statements *continued*

LIZ RESKO I moved to Arden in early '90s. During that time I had an opportunity to chair the Budget Committee and chair the Audit Committee. Presently, I am serving as Town Secretary. I think it is an honor to participate in our town government by giving back. I believe the issues surrounding Assessors is an ongoing, complex process. I would find it challenging and educational. I welcome the opportunity to further serve my community.

GARY E. QUINTON I have lived in Arden for 10 years, learning much about our community through personal contacts and public meetings. I believe the "community standard of living" approach makes sense for levying land rent. I also strongly believe that our community should carry a prudent reserve that is only necessary to handle uncertainty in "outside taxes" (those from New Castle County) and our own budget. As an assessor, I would continue to evaluate our historic ability to spend our budget with judicious thought to the contingency in our "rainy day fund," the Prudent Reserve. Since we settled our plans to manage the total reserve in 2014, I will bring forth some new ideas to manage our current coverage in a robust fashion to the 2016 Board of Assessors. As a Six Sigma (Statistics) Master Blackbelt with DuPont, I bring my analytical skills to the Board of Assessors, as I have in prior Land Rent Assessments. I continue to be active in Georgist activities and am the current Arden Budget Committee Chairperson.

PAM POLITIS I've been a resident in Arden for 15 years. While I have served in various community activities over the years, I have never been an assessor. In elections, I have typically supported the assessors recommended assessment, but I appreciate the concern and effort of those putting forth alternative assessments. I will work cooperatively and rigorously in serving as an assessor if elected.

DENIS O'REGAN I've been a leaseholder for 18 years. Tempus Fugit! I've served on Safety for 10 years, and served as Assessor on the last 10 Boards. During that time, I have come to understand and support the "Community Standard of Living" approach to Land Rent Assessment, and believe that Full Rental Value must be Fair Rental Value. I am also committed to maintaining a Prudent Reserve that is adequate, but not flush. I encourage leaseholders to attend Board meetings.

CHRIS JUNK preferred not to make a statement.

DAVID GERBEC My name is David Gerbec. I have lived in Arden for 14 years, which is just long enough to begin to understand how this village works. I don't have a personal agenda and, if elected, I will approach my responsibilities as an Assessor with an open mind.

JOE DEL TUFO In my three years as an assessor I have learned a lot under the leadership of a number of other assessors. I've learned about the complex mechanisms that connect the assessment of each leasehold to the overall town budget and its needs. I believe in the importance of a strategically set prudent reserve, and understand the assessors' role in guiding this. Most importantly I've come to appreciate the value of a balanced (and generally conservative) strategy when it comes to setting rates. I believe I have done good work and collaborated well each group I've had the opportunity to work with.

Thank you to all the candidates for their willingness to serve the community.

Prepared by Cecilia Vore, chair, Arden Registration Committee
10/12/2015